

Potters Bar Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Annual Report of M.O.H.

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for the Year ending December 31st, 1936.

DOROTHY CATCHPOOL, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.Lond.)

Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.

MRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1936 on the Health conditions in the Urban District of Potters Bar.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with Circular No. 1561 issued by the Ministry of Health on the 16th October, 1936.

The district continues to develop rapidly, and in this connection it is interesting to note that the number of notifications of Infectious Diseases has not increased in relation to the development. The number of cases of diphtheria has been considerably reduced.

There were ninety-two deaths, which is equivalent to a death rate of 9.5 per thousand and compares very favourably with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales of 12.1 per thousand.

The Infantile Mortality rate for 1936 is 37.73 per thousand births as against 36.6 per thousand births for 1935. The rate for England and Wales is 59 per thousand live births.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY CATCHPOOL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The District comprises the Parish of South Mimms and is situated in the County of Middlesex.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,104
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid. 1936)							10,103
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) according to Rate Books							3,592
Rateable Value (1936)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£112,322
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1936)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£428

Social Conditions, including Chief Industries.

The statement made in the last Annual Report that the increased rate of building would be maintained has been more than justified, and from proposals now before the Council, this rate of development will continue. The attention of builders has been drawn to the requirements of the Housing Act of 1936, regarding the size of the third bedroom. (Hitherto it was very often the custom in erecting cheaper properties to construct this room so that it was useless when considering the requirements of the Housing Act.)

The influx of the artisan owner-occupier still continues, and it is again a matter of concern as to how many people will continue to find employment in this district, as there is as yet little indication of industrial development.

Extent of Employment.

The number of unemployed persons is low, and it is very noticeable that a large proportion of the labour now employed on Estate development, particularly on the roads and sewers, are men from outside the district.

Meteorology.

The total rainfall recorded at the Tyttenhanger Pumping Station by the Barnet District Gas and Water Company's rain gauge measured 30.33 inches during 1936, the daily average being .08 inches. The greatest fall in twenty-four hours was on 21st June when 3.29 inches were recorded, this being the occasion of the very severe storm experienced during this period. Apart from this abnormal rainfall, the greatest rainfall during the year was 1.11 inches on 20th September.

The Council have now installed a rain gauge at their Potters Bar Sewage Works, and daily records are kept.

TABLE 1.

Rainfall recorded at Tyttenhanger.

Month.	Total Rain for Month.		Number of Wet Days with			
	1935	1936	0.01 or more ins.	0.04 or more ins.	1935	1936
January ...	1.17	4.23	12	23	7	20
February ...	2.79	2.03	15	14	12	13
March ...	0.43	1.15	8	14	3	11
April ...	3.73	1.29	20	13	16	9
May ...	2.28	0.40	8	7	8	5
June ...	3.90	6.50	18	20	15	14
21st June floods		3.29				
July ...	0.87	3.74	4	22	3	19
August ...	1.85	0.27	9	5	6	4
September ...	4.04	3.43	21	19	17	14
October ...	2.84	2.07	13	16	9	11
November ...	4.78	3.42	20	17	19	14
December ...	2.74	1.80	21	20	17	14
Totals ...	31.47	30.33	169	190	132	148

Extracts from Vital Statistics (after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General).

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live (Legitimate) ...	153	75	78	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.69.
Births (Illegitimate)	6	6	—	
	Total.	M.	F.	
Still (Legitimate) ...	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000, total (live and still) births, 30.48.
Births (Illegitimate)	1	1	—	
Deaths ...	92	47	45	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.5.
Deaths from puerperal causes ...				Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	37.73
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	39.21
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population for 1935 was 9,390 and for 1936, 10,130, but having regard to the fact that 352 houses were actually occupied during the year, the Registrar General's estimated increase appears to be very low. It is estimated, however, that the real population of the Council's district is more than 12,500.

The above figures clearly indicate the continued growth of the district, which is to a large extent a dormitory for London.

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths was 67.

The population for the past five years has been as follows :—

				Registrar General.				Estimated.	
1932	...	...	...	6,720	...	...	...	7,000	
1933	...	...	...	7,460	...	...	...	9,000	
1934	...	...	...	8,570	...	...	...	10,000	
1935	...	...	...	9,390	...	...	...	11,500	
1936	...	...	...	10,130	...	...	...	12,500	

Births. Birth Rate.

The nett total births accredited to the district was 159, a decrease of five on the preceding year. Of these eighty-one were males and seventy-eight females. The birth rate was therefore 15.69 per 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for England and Wales for 1936 was 14.8. The total number of births actually registered in the district during the year was ninety-seven.

TABLE 2.

The following deaths occurred during the year :—

No.	Cause of Death.	F.	M.	Total.
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0
2	Measles	0	0	0
3	Scarlet fever	0	1	1

No.	Cause of Death.							F.	M.	Total.
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
10.	Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	.....	...	...	...	4	4	8
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	16	31
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
20.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
21.	Other diseases of the respiratory system (tuberculosis excepted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
22.	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
25.	Cirrhosis of the liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
26.	Other diseases of the liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
35.	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Total								45	44	89

TABLE 3.

Deaths from all causes, divided as to sex and certain age groups, and shewing a percentage of total deaths and death rate per 1,000 of population for each group.

Age. Years.	MALES.			FEMALES.			TOTALS.		
	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
0—1	3	3.37	.30	3	3.37	.30	6	6.74	.60
1—2									
2—5									
5—15				1	1.12	.10	1	1.12	.10
15—25	1	1.12	.10	2	2.25	.20	3	3.37	.30
25—45	3	3.37	.29	8	8.98	.79	11	12.35	1.10
45—65	15	16.86	1.48	6	6.74	.58	21	23.60	2.10
Over 65	22	24.73	2.17	25	28.09	2.47	47	52.81	4.70
Totals	44	49.45	4.34	45	50.55	4.44	89	100.00	8.90

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	... Dorothy Catchpool, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Lond.).
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor	Edwin Carr, M.Inst. M. & Cy.E., P.A.S.I., A.R.San.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor's Assistant.	Arthur W. Ruffell, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certi- ficated Meat and Smoke Inspector. (Appointed 17th August, 1937).

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens and samples are sent for examination to the Clinical Research Association.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance of the Enfield and Edmonton Isolation Hospital is available when required in the cases of infectious diseases.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Nurses F. Dennison (Queen's District Nurse) and Nurse D. M. Fitzpatrick (Queen's District Nurse) of 255, Mutton Lane, are registered as practising nurses and midwives.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There are two Clinics ; one at South Mimms and one at Potters Bar provided by the Middlesex County Council who are also about to erect a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the neighbourhood of Cranborne Road, which is now a rapidly growing area.

(e) Hospitals.

There are two hospitals within the district, the Pawling Home at Kitts End and the Cottage Hospital in Hospital Road, but neither of these is connected with a Local Authority, and the accommodation is small.

The Clare Hall Sanatorium, administered by the Middlesex County Council is situated within the district. There is no isolation hospital in the district, but cases are sent to the Enfield and Edmonton Hospital, by special arrangement.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The district is supplied by mains of the Barnet District Gas and Water Company. The supply is of good quality and satisfactory, and following the taking of samples, reports to this effect have been presented to the Council during the year. Ninety-nine per cent. of the houses in the district are supplied.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two sewage disposal works within the district, one at Potters Bar and one at South Mimms. These works are in good condition and produce an effluent of good standard. However, owing to the rapid growth of the district, the Potters Bar Sewage Disposal Works are becoming overloaded in times of storm, and consideration is being given to the construction of temporary works pending full examination of the proposals of the Colne Valley Sewerage Scheme.

The Council have become somewhat concerned over the flooding at times during heavy storms which involves three small areas within the district. A new Engineering Assistant was appointed and considerable steps have been taken towards the preparation of a new scheme to alleviate the flooding. The Scheme allows for sewers to take the ultimate population of a large proportion of the area which includes the three small districts suffering from flooding. Meanwhile continued efforts are being made to trace infiltration and to reduce the same wherever possible.

Rivers and Streams.

The major streams in the district are under the control of the Middlesex County Council, but observations are kept by this Council in conjunction with the work of observing all other watercourses. No cause for action was found.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the District is on the water carriage system, about one per cent. being on the conservancy system. Regular inspections were made, but no cause for complaint was found.

Public Cleansing.

The weekly refuse collection continues and is proving very satisfactory. The controlled tip in the sand pit on the Barnet By-pass continues to meet the needs of the District and the tipping is being carried out in a clean and safe manner. Unfortunately the Company who were working the sand have ceased to work the tip and this has added slightly to our difficulties in obtaining clean covering material. It has meant a slightly increased cost, but nevertheless, there is ample covering material at hand to allow the tip being carried on in a proper manner.

During the past year a weekly collection for trade refuse was instituted. The Council have arranged to collect one bin free of charge and all additional refuse to be collected on a fixed charge basis. This arrangement has proved quite satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this Report.

Shops Acts.

Mr. A. W. Ruffell, Additional Sanitary Inspector, was appointed Shops Acts Inspector as from the 17th August, 1936. One informal notice was served in respect of insufficient sanitary accommodation and the notice was complied with.

Smoke Abatement.

As the area is practically entirely residential, no nuisance was observed due to emission of smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

One privately owned swimming pool, open to the public, is in use in connection with the San Martin Cafe on the Barnet By-pass. Several inspections have been made, but no cause for complaint has been found. The water appears to be well treated and of a high standard. The general accommodation provided is satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One complaint was received of bug infestation in a Council house, and disinfection was necessary. The architraves and picture rails were rendered and scorched with a blow lamp and the rooms were sealed and a formalin candle burnt. The rooms were afterwards distempered and painted. The work was carried out by the Local Authority.

Schools.

All the schools within the District receive periodical inspection.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	95
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	27
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	56
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	29

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	13
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners (notice served in previous year)	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1935.

Legislation in regard to overcrowding became operative during 1936, and a complete survey of the houses in the district, and the compilation of a complete statistical record of the number of occupants of each house, occasioned a large amount of work.

The following is a summary of the conditions of the area :—

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	...	...	...	15
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	15
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	79
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	0
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	0
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	0

The provision of new Council houses is under consideration, and the completion of these, together with some re-arrangement of accommodation will abate the overcrowding.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Twenty-seven visits were made to the cowsheds in the District, and as a result of these inspections it was decided by the Council to adopt Articles 12 (1), 13 (1),— and 25 of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

The Registers relating to farms, dairies, etc., were revised during the year.

Farms and other premises which are used as Dairies	...	...	...	24
Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk	...	...	...	19
Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	19
Accredited Producers (licensed by Middlesex C.C.)	...	...	...	9

Ten samples of milk were taken. The Laboratory Reports indicate that the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of the samples of Accredited Milk are being satisfied. The Laboratory Reports in respect of the samples of Raw Milk indicate that more attention is necessary to the supervision of the production and handling of the milk.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

There are two slaughterhouses in the District. These are visited each time slaughtering takes place and all animals are subjected to ante and post mortem inspection. Minor breaches of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations were observed but were corrected as the result of the service of informal notices.

Shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared were examined at intervals, but no cause for complaint was found. There are five bakehouses in the District which are kept in a fair condition.

Number of Animals Inspected.

Beasts	...	...	...	45
Calves	...	...	...	9
Sheep	...	...	...	228
Pigs	...	...	...	154
Lambs	...	...	...	120

The following diseased meat was surrendered and destroyed by burying in lime at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works :—

Number of condemnations of entire carcasses :

One pig	Generalised tuberculosis.
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Number of condemnations of parts of carcases or organs :—

(a) For Tuberculosis	30
(b) For diseases other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small pox	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	13	6	1
Diphtheria	5	2	—
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	4	—	8
Other diseases generally notifiable :—			
(a) Erysipelas	1	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

Analysis under Age Groups of Total cases notified.

	Under 1 yr.	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/65
Scarlet fever	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	2	3	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	1	—	2	8	2	2	5	3	1

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was found to be necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during the year 1936.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	7	2	4	2	1	—	—

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out to all premises as required, and a further improvement in this service is that a satisfactory arrangement has been made with the Enfield Urban District Council to collect, disinfect and return to the house all bedding, etc., in a specially designed vehicle.

Report of Sanitary Inspector for Year 1936.

Premises inspected on complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Premises inspected in connection with infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Premises under periodical inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Houses inspected from house-to-house	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Inspections and re-inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Houses made habitable without closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Houses closed voluntarily	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Moveable dwellings, caravans, tents, etc., number observed during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Moveable dwellings, caravans, tents, etc., number of nuisances therefrom abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Moveable dwellings, caravans, etc., number removed from district	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Bakehouses, number in district	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses, number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses, number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Slaughterhouses, frequency of inspection	...	...	...	...	at times of slaughter	...	
Cowsheds, number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Cowsheds, number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cowsheds, frequency of inspection	...	...	...	...	at least once quarterly	...	
Cowsheds, milch cows in district	...	...	...	...	...	Average	250
Dairies and milkshops, number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies and milkshops, number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dairies and milkshops, frequency of inspection	...	...	...	...	at least once quarterly	...	
Unsound food, fruit and vegetables seized and surrendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Unsound food, method of disposal. To controlled tip and limed.	...	...	...	...	Given under	...	
separate heading.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of houses supplied with Public Water Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Samples obtained for analysis from local wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Samples obtained for analysis from public supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closets substituted for dry receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Percentage of houses provided with water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Disconnecting traps or chambers inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools rendered impervious, emptied, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Percentage of houses draining into sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Rooms disinfected, ordinary infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms disinfected, phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms disinfected, verminous	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Articles disinfected or destroyed, phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foul ditches, ponds, etc., and stagnant water abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foul pigs and other animal nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Yards re-paved and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

The defects found were of a very general nature as indicated in the above list and this does not include repairs to Council houses.

Wherever possible every endeavour was made to meet either the owners or the agents and explain the requirements, and it was found that in practically every case there was ready acquiescence on their part to comply with the requirements.

There are three fish frying establishments within the district. Each has a modern frying apparatus and no complaints have been received. Casual inspections indicated that in each case the premises were properly kept.

With reference to the cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, there is a great variation in the standard of the premises but there is a slight improvement.

Generally speaking, the cleanliness in milk production has been well maintained.

With respect to the inspection of slaughterhouses and of meat, no difficulty is experienced in obtaining any information, or obedience to reasonable requirements. Unsound carcasses or organs are readily surrendered, removed to the Sewage Works and destroyed.

Occasional visits are made to shops and no difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the surrender of any unsound food stuffs.

In connection with the inspection of petroleum stores, the reasonable requests of the Council have been readily met, and in the case of new installations, proper air tests have been applied before covering up.

There are eleven garages, five bakehouses, one enamel factory, one printing works, one dressmaking establishment, one breeze block factory and one furniture repairing workshop and five boot-repairing workshops in the District registered under these Acts, but the number of employees is small in each case. Thirty-one inspections were made, five informal notices served and complaints remedied.

The removal of house refuse with the aid of the new 15 cubic yard Dennis Rear Loading vehicle continues to be very satisfactory, and the number of complaints received is very small indeed.

The disposal of refuse in the Council's controlled tip on the Barnet By-pass Road continues satisfactorily.

The Council have adequate and up-to-date scraping apparatus and the whole of the Council's systems of sewers is now subject to regular examination, scraping and flushing.
